at Rajkot are relayed by the respective high power (10 KW) transmitters covering between them an area of about 82,900 Sq. Kms. (including the area receiving fringe service).

(b) Arrangements have been made to link *via* satellite all the high power and low power TV transmitters in Gujarat to Doordarshan Kendra, Ahmedabad during 1992 so as to enable them to relay the regional service programmes originating from Doordarshan Kendra, Ahmedabad. With the introduction of this regional service, Gujarati programmes are envisaged to be available in an area of about 1,23,290 Sq. Kms. (including the area receiving fringe service).

(c) and (d) A high power (10 KW) TV transmitter with its antenna mounted on a 300 M high RCC TV tower in replacement of the existing low power (100 W) TV transmitter is under establishment at Bhuj at present. On its commissioning, the area coverage is envisaged to increase by about 26,600 Sq. Kms.

[*Translation*]

Import of Newsprint

*494. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of newsprint imported during 1990-91;

(b) the quantity likely to be imported during 1991-92; and

(c) the annual domestic production of newsprint in the country vis-a-vis its demand?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) 2.26 lakh MT.

(b) STC has contracted imports of 1.67 lakh MTs so far. Further imports of newsprint will depend on availability of free foreign exchange.

(c) The domestic production of newsprint varies from year to year. During 1990-91, domestic production stood at 2.80 lakh MTs. For 1991-92, a production of 2.95 lakh MTs is estimated against a total estimated demand of 5.85 lakh MTs.

[*English*]

Schemes for Ocean Development

*495. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on various schemes of the Department of Ocean Development since the last three years, year-wise and scheme-wise; and

(b) the details of the achievements under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) A statement indicating the details of the expenditure incurred by the Department of Ocean Development on various schemes and achievements during the last three years is attached.

STATEMENT

(a) The details of the expenditure incurred by the Department on various schemes during the year 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 are given in the attached annexure.

(b) The achievements under the various programmes are listed below:—

1. *Exploration and assessment of living and non-living resources*:—65 cruises of the two research vessels of the Department in the EEZ which extends upto 200 nautical miles

from the coast line were performed during this period for exploration of sea floor topography, study of various oceanographic parameters and biomass distribution.

2. *Exploitation of Polymetallic Nodules.*—Out of 1.5 lakh square kilometres of area allotted in the Central Indian Ocean more than fifty per cent has already been explored for systematic bathymetric mapping. The Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur is developing a deep seabed mining system for mining these nodules. Laboratory scale development of metallurgical processes has been undertaken at the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur and Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar with a view to upgrading the process, to pilot plant scale.

3. *Coastal Zone and Island.*—A National Ocean Information System has been designed to collect, store, process and disseminate data on various ocean related parameters. A National Marine Remote Sensing Service has been organised under the All India Coordinated Project involving the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, and National Institute of Oceanography, Goa etc., for dissemination of data on potential fisheries zones for the guidance fishermen and for assessing the impacts of coastal environment and ecosystems. Similarly, a Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Predictive System has been designed to quantify the flow rate of pollutants into the estuaries and coastal zone. A 150 KW experimental wave power plant was fabricated at Vizhinjam harbour near Tiruvananthapuram in Kerala. The land acquisition has been completed for setting up a semi-intensive prawn aquaculture project at Port Blair in Andaman Islands. Six tide gauge stations on the coast were taken up for modernising and for monitoring of sea level variations.

4. *Research, Development and Specialised Manpower.*—A unit for post graduate training and research in ocean circulation and air sea exchange processes was established at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. A Cell each at the IIT Madras and Jadavpur University, Calcutta was established for coastal ocean design and predictive system. A project for setting up a scaled up unit for recovery of potassium chloride from mixed salt was tried at the Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar. A national project on development of drugs and chemicals from sea water co-ordinated by the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow was taken up for implementation. Research support was provided to various academic institutions to promote basic research in ocean science.

5. *Marine Instrumentation.*—Marine instruments like free fall recording bathythermograph, current meter, moored ocean data buoys, micro processor based instrumentation for ocean parameter studies were developed through the NIO, Goa and other institutions.

6. *Antarctic Research.*—Three scientific expeditions sent to Antarctica successfully accomplished their tasks. Scientific activities carried out during these expeditions related to research in basic and environmental sciences. These included studies on the structure of the Antarctic crust, of the upper atmospheric shells notably ozone and D-layer, of climate as well as those to elucidate the ecosystems of Antarctica and the surrounding seas. Researches were also carried out to develop appropriate materials and engineering systems to support the stay and work of scientists under exacting conditions.

An expedition to the Weddell Sea (November 1989 to March 1990) carried out research reconnaisance of the eastern side of the Berkner Island in the region. A permanent station was established at Maitri and Dakshin Gangotri was converted into a supply base.

Preliminary work on setting up Antarctic Study Centre at Goa has been completed.

7. *International Relations.*—Under the Commonwealth Assistance Programme Oceanographic survey was undertaken in the Carribbean Seas by utilising ORV Sagar Kanya.

A Protocol on the Comprehensive Measures for the Protection of Antarctic Environment, including a prohibition on mining in Antarctica for fifty years was agreed to for which India made significant contribution.

Negotiations have been completed concerning the obligations to be fulfilled by Registered Pioneer Investors resulting in the waiver for India, of payment of a fixed annual fee of one million US Dollars from August, 1987 till the entry into force of the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

ANNEXURE

(*Rupees in Lakhs*)

Sl. No.	*Name of Schemes*	1988-89 (*Plan and Non-Plan*)	1989-90 (*Plan and Non-Plan*)	1990-91 (*Plan and Non-Plan*)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Exploration and Assessment of Living and non-living resources (Research cruises of ORV Sagar Kanya and Sagar Sampada) .	590	639	619
2.	Exploration of Polymetallic Nodules	347	640	542
3.	Coastal Zone and Islands . . .	176.5	199	373
4.	Research, Development and specialised Manpower.	91	201	260
5.	Marine Instrumentation . . .	7	5	77
6.	Antarctic Research	1148	1317	1246
7.	Infrastructure, Secretariat, Exhibition and Fairs etc.	1245	122	151
	TOTAL	2448	3123	3271

[*Translation*]

Criteria for allocation of Essential Commodities to State

*496. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for allocation of essential commodities to States;

(b) the quantity of each commodity allocated to States during the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the basis for giving concession in prices and the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Central Government supplies key essential commodities to the State Governments and